

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1921.

Society's Christmas Reaches Apex of the Season

Society's Conservative Set Meets at Dinner Parties

Young Element and Its Followers a Thousand Strong, on the Other Hand, Fill the Foreground With Dances, Suppers and Breakfasts.

AT Christmas, as usual, society reaches the apex of its city season with the debutantes still holding by courtesy the foreground of the stage, but with their parents, particularly their mothers, emerging from a background within which, with customary traditional social diplomacy, they have remained as a part of their duty to the proper upbringing of the younger fashionable generation.

But that background, in front of which the young set has danced one day into another for nearly eight hectic weeks, has been a distinguishing feature of the first half of the season with its unprecedented number of dinner parties.

It is through its dinners that the more conservative element of New York society maintains its boundaries, which still are clearly defined. Under the old regime, before society as it is known today had expanded into a composite of interweaving circles, the parents of a small portion of to-day's debutantes and young men of their group formed the fashionable young set of their period, and that was less than twenty years ago.

The immense body of men and women of New York who have become inoculated with the *rage du monde* and possess the power to express their social inclinations has expanded to its present proportions within a decade, but moving back of it and through it, observing this natural social expansion in a community of seven millions of persons, is that conservative element, a sort of club within a club, that keeps intact its circle through the one form of entertainment that can be governed. That is the dinner party or the small house dance.

And that commendable conspiracy to maintain an excellent social tradition has been carried on in a pronounced manner, while society in the aggregate has been whirling about in the foreground. Scores of those intimate dinners in homes of persons who have inherited their social status have been given since the early weeks of November and will continue to be given through the first month of the new year.

Those intimate assemblies have brought together as many as forty guests. The average dinner party has been for sixteen, and it is an odd phase of modern life in society that the younger members of those families often move in a circle that takes them far from the confines of this guarded tradition of the social strict constructionists.

Thus the broad circle, with its "coming out" dance that brings together nearly a thousand guests, sweeps about the smaller one with its jealously maintained limitations. The commonly heard verbal expression, "I should like to have you drop in at my daughter's dance," does not imply that the front door of the home of the hostess is open.

So with the expansion of society has come into vogue the necessity of a new form of social sagacity.

Ball Held for Debut of Miss Joan Whitney

An example of modern broad hospitality that centers about the debutant was the ball Mr. and Mrs. Payne Whitney gave in the Plaza Hotel last Tuesday to introduce their daughter, Miss Joan Whitney. Even the largest of homes is not equal to the proportions of a typical present day ball for a debutante. To meet the outer boundaries of her daughter's list of friends, Mr. and Mrs. Whitney had to take an entire ballroom floor of a hotel as well as the restaurant usually set aside for the public.

And yet that ball, with its attendance of fully a thousand persons, was given the suggestion of the private house dance, such as is to come with the next few weeks. There was a private entrance, once inside which the guest was far removed from a curious public. To meet the present day requirements of the young set, there were two orchestras that gave no rest for the dancers. There was a buffet supper, where the guests might nibble whenever they wished. There also was a private supper in what on ordinary nights would have been a public restaurant, and again in the restaurant breakfast was served six hours after the party started.

In their party for their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Payne Whitney lived up to the traditions for perfect and expansive hospitality established in an earlier period by the debutante's grandfather, the late William C. Whitney, who gave vogue to the typical Yankee breakfast as the terminating feature of a fashionable soiree.

House Dances Arranged For Early in New Year

Now come the more circumscribed house dances, parties that have since the doings of New York society began to get into print, marked the days of Christmas holiday week and the first weeks of January.

An important chapter will be written into the records of the season on the night of January 4, when Mr. and Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney will give a ball in their home, 871 Fifth avenue, for their debutante daughter, Miss Barbara Hammond. Of similar import socially is to be Mrs. William Bayard Cutting's party 14 for her granddaughter, Miss Iris Cutting, who came from her English home a few weeks ago to pass the remainder of the winter in among her American relatives and friends.

Miss Barney Has an Old Fashioned Debut

A pleasant incident in society was the old-fashioned coming-out party Mr. and Mrs. J. Stewart Barney gave in their home, 31 West Thirty-seventh street, a week ago yesterday for their daughter, Miss Mary Alice Barney. It was in the same home that the hostess was introduced to society as Miss Mary Alice Van Nest, and it also was there, when the home of her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Alexander T. Van Nest, that the reception following the wedding of the host and hostess was held. Business is crowding in about the Barney home, but the family clings to the

spacious house with a sentimental regard for its traditions. Some of the many bouquets received by the debutante had come from Virginia, the native State of Mr. Barney.

Some new cards are out for January incidents. On the night of January 2 Mrs. Robert Waller will give a dance in the Ritz-Carlton for her grandniece, Miss Mary Sheffield, and the same night Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Church will give one in the Plaza for their debutante niece, Miss Charlotte Church, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick E. Church. That night Mr. John Achells will give a dinner party for his debutante daughter, Miss Dorothy Achells, in Sherry's and afterward will take his guests to a theater. Later they will go to the dances of the night.

New York society has its characteristics and the first few weeks of a winter season develops them. In strong points this season is holding its own against the best of individually past years have put forth. What the young women are exhibiting in the way of originality, whether in amateur dramatics, in the encouragement of good music or even in the publishing business, is the product of the utilitarian age that has inspired Miss Isabel Pell to open a miniature department store in Madison avenue or impelled Mrs. Daniel P. Murphy, a daughter of the late George R. Sheldon, to go into the restaurant business within easy reach of Columbia and Barnard students.

'Debutante Calendar' Issued Monthly

Reference to the amateur invasion of the publishing field has to do with the first issue of the *Debutante Calendar*, the January number of which has just come from the press. The monthly is purely a debutante production under the supervision of some of their older associates. All are members of the Junior League, although the league itself is not the projector of the publishing scheme. Like all varieties of energy emanating from the league, the project has a philanthropic inspiration. The income from the sales and advertising will be used in extending the work of the Parks and Playgrounds Association of the City of New York of which Mr. George Gordon Battle is the president.

The *Debutante Calendar* is a credit to the local publishing trade, both in appearance and as to the industry its advertising pages demonstrate. Miss Anne Gordon Winchester, the editor in chief, has for her editorial council Mrs. Rodney Williams, Mrs. Robert Porter, and the Misses Wenden Mathews, Emily Louise Billings and Diana Dalziel of New York, and Alice Mann of Washington. Save for an article by Mr. Battle on the appeal of the Parks and Playgrounds Association, the contributed matter has come from the minds, pens and typewriters of members of this winter's debutants set in several of the larger cities, as the publication is not intended for purely local consumption. It must not be forgotten that the Junior League, to the membership of which the *Calendar* is intended to appeal, is a national organization with the New York league as the national nerve center.

The *Debutante Calendar* is sold by subscription and will come out monthly.

Auction Bridge in Aid of Crittenton League

Another appeal is being made by the officers and board of managers of the Florence Crittenton League for funds to carry on their work in the upkeep of the home, which is at 427 West Twenty-first street. The home shelters and protects young women brought to the Women's Court, and the work of the league for these unfortunate persons is considered well nigh indispensable.

There will be held for the benefit of the league next Tuesday afternoon an auction bridge tournament in the Clarke Building, at 42 East Fifty-eighth street, which at one time was the Club de Vingt. Mr. Clarke has donated the use of the building, and there will be offered among other inducements for play a parterre box for an evening performance at the Metropolitan Opera.

Tickets, at \$3 each, may be obtained from Mrs. Graham F. Handy, at 26 East Thirty-eighth street, and also from Mr. Clarke, at 42 East Fifty-eighth street. Among those who take an active interest in the work of the league are Mrs. J. Nelson Reiland, Miss Alice C. Smith, Mrs. Richard Whitney, Mrs. Gleister Armstrong, Mrs. Jules S. Bache, Miss Frances de Peyster, Messrs. Henry W. Herbert, Charles W. Appleton, Norman J. Marsh, William Howard Taft, V. Bruce Cobb, John E. McGeehan, George H. Howard, Edgar V. Frothingham, Daniel F. Murphy and the Rev. Dr. William H. Morgan.



MISS LOUISA STEEDMAN WILSON, DEBUTANTE DAUGHTER OF MR. AND MRS. RICHARD T. WILSON

Amateurs Start Dramatic Season in Own New Plays

'Why Divorce' Presented by Comedy Club—'Ready Made' for Junior League.

THE members of the Amateur Comedy Club started their annual season of private performances a week ago with three performances of a new play by Mr. Jesse Lynch Williams called "Why Divorce?" with Mrs. S. Hoffman Bird, Miss Eleanor Little, Mrs. Herbert Groesbeck, Jr., who was Miss Amy Bradish Johnson; Mrs. Dreincourt M. Martin and Messrs. Henry Clapp Smith, Kenneth M. Murchison and Philip Kobbe, all dramatic standbys of the club, in the cast. Unfortunately, the plan of the club to erect its own clubhouse and theater fell through and this season it is giving its performances in the auditorium of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's annex.

It was Mr. Edward Pales Coward, one of the charter members, who wrote a play for a group of clever young amateur actors at the annual Father Knickerbocker ball in the Plaza. In Mr. Coward's latest addition to his lengthening list of original writings and plays, Miss Helen Hoadley again proved her efficiency as vocalist and actress, while the author himself had a part in his play.

In another few weeks the members of the Junior League, that fertile field of original expression, will come forward with their annual dramatic offering in the Plaza. This year the league has hit upon a truly novel motif, one worthy the inventive genius of professional Broadway. The league's play, which will be presented on January 28, 27 and 28, deals with the psychology of dress and bears appropriately the name "Ready Made."

Miss Grace R. Henry, who has produced all the league plays in recent years, has prepared the book and most of the lyrics. The music is the result of the collaboration between Messrs. Emerson McMillin 3d, an amateur actor with professional instincts; Gerald Warburg and Gerald Reynolds. Judging from the outline of "Ready Made," three audiences will be much amused. The story is full of possibilities of which the authors have, it is said, made the most. The two acts and six scenes are based upon the emotions and moods inspired by a suit of clothes and a debutante's dress. The suit and the dress hang in opposite sides of a shop window. Between them there is a strong attachment which can be developed only in the wearers. The suit is worn in one direction and the dress in the other, but, of course, the animated clothes meet. Through six phases pass the suit and dress. The phases are in a downward sequence, from a Fifth avenue apartment, through Central Park to an East Side dance hall, and then from a second hand clothing emporium through a vaudeville theater to the ashcan.

The pathetic descent from high estate to lamentable end is depicted in special music and excellent stage settings. The names of the amateurs who will animate the suit and dress are yet to be made public, as also are the names of a large cast to figure in the Junior League's latest offering to its curious public.

Mrs. Vincent Astor has executive supervision of the entertainment committee of the league this season, and Mrs. E. Roland N. Harriman is her chief assistant. Miss Dorothy Collins is the secretary and Miss Muriel Vanderbilt will be the treasurer.

MISS ALICE LEE MILLER



MISS ALICE LEE MILLER, THE FIANCÉE OF MR. PIERREPONT D. SCHREIBER, IS A DAUGHTER OF MRS. JAMES F. BACON OF SHORT HILLS, N. J. GRAND-DAUGHTER OF THE LATE JOHN BOWERS LEE. Photo by CAMPBELL STUDIO.

Important Weddings and Engagements

Miss Katherine Van Ingen to Become Bride of Mr. George F. Downey, Jr.

FROM the number of engagements being announced each week, there will be many important weddings in the spring and early summer, and some even before then, for engagements generally are of short duration. Mrs. Edward Van Ingen of 4 East Seventy-third street last week announced the engagement of her only daughter, Miss Katherine Van Ingen, to Mr. George F. Downey, Jr., son of Col. and Mrs. George Faber Downey of Washington, D. C. Their marriage will take place early next summer, probably at Southampton, where Miss Van Ingen is one of the most popular young women of the summer colony, and where she was introduced to society three years ago. She has taken an active interest in the work of the Junior League and during the war, in the relief work of the American Red Cross. Miss Van Ingen is a granddaughter of the late Edward H. Van Ingen and is the sister of the Messrs. Edward H. and Lawrence Bell Van Ingen.

Mr. Downey was graduated from Yale in 1918. He served overseas as a captain in the Twelfth Field Artillery. He is a nephew of Mrs. Fairfax S. Landstreet, and the Messrs. Thomas B. and Joseph E. Davis of this city. He is related to the Davis and Elkins families of Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin M. Bulkley of Englewood, N. J., and 31 East Sixty-seventh street, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Lucy Kidder Bulkley, to Mr. Charles R. Erdman, Jr., son of the Rev. Dr. Charles

R. Erdman of the Princeton Theological Seminary. Miss Bulkley attended Miss Porter's School at Farmington, Conn., and is a member of the Junior League. Her father is connected with the banking firm of Spencer Trask & Co.

Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Porter Hopkins of 188 Clinton avenue, Brooklyn, last week announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Beatrice Hopkins, to Mr. Daniel Murray Edwards, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Murray Edwards of Syracuse, N. Y. Miss Hopkins was graduated from the Orono School in 1919 and is a member of the Junior League. Mr. Edwards was graduated from Yale in 1917, and during the war served as a lieutenant in the air service overseas.

Mrs. Clarence E. Smith of the Hotel St. Regis has announced the engagement of her sister, Miss Mary Kelly, to Mr. Hardy Bush, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Hardy Bush of Newark, N. J. The wedding will take place the latter part of January. Mr. Bush is a graduate of Notre Dame. He served as a captain with the Twenty-ninth Division.

At a luncheon given by Mrs. Noel E. Evans of Plainfield, N. J., on Tuesday afternoon, Miss Violet T. Johnston, to Mr. Richard Palmer Shonland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Shonland of Portland, Ore. Miss Johnston is a student at the Connecticut College, and will complete her studies in June. Mr. Shonland was graduated from the University of Maine and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Blackburn of Bronxville, N. Y., have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Margaret Lowry Blackburn, to Mr. Eugene Morgan Vigneron, son of Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Vigneron of Chicago. Mr. Vigneron was graduated from the Uni-

versity of Wisconsin in 1917. He served overseas as a captain in the Coast Artillery Corps.

Dr. Henry Heath, Jr., of Orient, L. I., and Brooklyn, has announced the engagement of his daughter, Miss Helen Heath, to Mr. Elmer Moir Burden of Forest Hills, L. I. Mr. Burden is the son of Mrs. S. Jane Burden and the late Peter Burden. The wedding will take place the latter part of January.

Miss Heloise Graham of Fishkill, N. Y., has announced the engagement of her niece, Miss Beatrice Ann Brinckerhoff, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Bailey Brinckerhoff, to Mr. Alexander Bain Young, son of Mrs. and Mrs. Frederick Bain Young of Prince Rupert, B. C. During the war Mr. Young served in the Royal Flying Corps. The wedding will be celebrated in Fishkill on January 3.

Mrs. George Wilson Ferguson of Oshkosh, N. Y., has announced the engagement of her granddaughter, Miss Helena Stoutenburgh Hyatt, to Mr. Eugene Ward Potter, son of Mr. Frederick Potter. Miss Hyatt is a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel S. Hyatt and is a graduate of Miss Fuller's School. She also attended the New York School of Fine and Applied Arts. Mr. Potter is a graduate of Yale, class of '20. During the war he served as a lieutenant in the army.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Willis Smith of Bronxville have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Eleanor de Puy Smith to Mr. W. A. Moorhouse, who served overseas with the Seventy-seventh Division. He is adjutant of the Advertising Men's Post 203, American Legion, New York City. He was graduated from the University of Wisconsin.

Mrs. Agnes McCosker of 457 Waverly avenue, Brooklyn, announces the engagement of her daughter, Miss Mar-



MISS MARGARET CLARK MACMILLIN, DEBUTANTE DAUGHTER OF MR. AND MRS. MARION MACMILLIN. Photo by CAMPBELL STUDIO.

Gala Christmas Week for Debutante Group of Society

Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt 2d, to Give Dinner and Dance To-morrow Night for Her Daughter, Miss Muriel Vanderbilt.

THERE has not been such a season of concentrated gaiety since before the world war as that began with the days preceding the feast of Christmas, each day and night being filled with entertainments not only for debutantes but also for their elders.

Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt 2d will give a dance to-morrow night at 668 Fifth avenue, which will follow a dinner for her daughter, Miss Muriel Vanderbilt. Mrs. H. Casimir de Rham will give a dinner in the banquet room at Sherry's for her debutante daughter, Miss Marion de Rham, and later her guests numbering more than one hundred will go to the dance, which Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Batterman will give in the main ballroom suite for their daughter, Miss Beatrice Batterman. Mr. and Mrs. J. Stewart Barney also are giving a dinner to-morrow night.

Another large dance of to-morrow night will be given by Mr. and Mrs. Graham Lusk at the Colony Club to introduce their daughter, Miss Louise Lusk, and another will be given at the Cosmopolitan Club by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Anderson Boston for their daughter, Miss Katharine Boston.

The largest party of Tuesday night will be that which Mr. and Mrs. Hill Prentiss will give at the Ritz-Carlton for their second daughter, Miss Kate de Forest Prentiss, who was abroad all summer with her parents. One of the de Rham's in advance of this dance will be given by Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop W. Aldrich at 22 East Seventy-third street. Dr. and Mrs. Edward L. Keyes, Jr., will introduce to society their daughter, Miss Emily Keyes, at a large afternoon reception, which will be held in the new ball room of the Plaza. Miss Keyes, who is a member of the Junior League, made an extensive tour of Europe last summer with her parents. Mrs. Edwin A. Strong of 565 Park avenue, will give the first of a series of luncheons on Tuesday for her daughter, Miss Elizabeth Strong, who is a debutante, and later Mrs. Strong will give some dinner parties. Another luncheon of Tuesday will be given by Mrs. George E. Blackwell of 42 East Eighty-first street, at the Ritz-Carlton, for her daughter, Miss Katharine J. Blackwell, who is a sophomore at Bryn Mawr. There will be sixty guests, including other debutantes of the season. Mrs. Norman H. Davis will hold a reception on Tuesday afternoon at 25 East Seventy-ninth street for her debutante daughter, Miss Martha Davis, who is a student at Vassar. Another debutante of Tuesday will be Miss Eleanor Carter Wood, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Francis Carter Wood, for whom her mother will give a reception at the Wyoming.

Wednesday night will be marked by more dances. Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer I. Schiff will give one for their daughter, Miss Dorothy Schiff, at 962 Fifth avenue, one of the few dances of the season to be held in a private home. The same night Mr. George T. Bonner will give a dance in the ball room of the Colony Club for his granddaughters, Miss Maud Cabot, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Higginson Cabot, and Miss

Florence Lockwood, daughter of Mrs. M. I. Lockwood. That night Mrs. Burt P. Workum and her daughter, Miss Clara Workum, will give a dinner and theater party for Miss Editha Macv, debutante daughter of Mr. and Mrs. V. Everett Macy. Mrs. Marion Macmillin will give a reception at 270 Park avenue on Wednesday afternoon to introduce her daughter, Miss Margaret Clark Macmillin, who was graduated from the Spence School last June. Another reception of Wednesday afternoon will be given by Mr. and Mrs. John Schureman Sutphen in the ball room of the Plaza to introduce their daughter, Miss Hyacinth Adeline Sutphen, who is a sophomore at Smith College.

There will be two important dances next Thursday night. One of them will be given by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Low, at the Colony Club, to introduce their granddaughter, Miss Louise Mott Whitney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cansevor Sanford of this city and Ontario, N. Y. Miss Sanford is a sophomore at Bryn Mawr. The other dance will be given by Mr. and Mrs. Irving Brokaw in the main ball room of the Ritz-Carlton for their daughter, Miss Barbara Brokaw, who was with her parents in Europe for the summer. Another dance of Thursday night will be given by Mr. and Mrs. George Dallas Yeomans, at 3 East Eighty-sixth street, for their debutante daughter, Miss May Stoddard Yeomans.

Mr. and Mrs. Courlandt Dixon Barnes will give a supper and dance next Friday night in Pierre's restaurant for their relatives, Miss Barbara and Joan Whitney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall J. Dodge, and a granddaughter of Mrs. Arthur Murray Dodge. The center of the floor will be cleared of the guests for dancing, and during supper the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Barnes will be seated at tables which will be placed around the sides of the room and in the foyer.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sanford will give a dance on New Year's eve at 9 East Seventy-second street, and another dance of that night will be given by Mr. and Mrs. George Dallas Yeomans, at 3 East Eighty-sixth street, for their debutante daughter, Miss May Stoddard Yeomans.

First of the Bachelor Dances Next Friday

Another series of five subscription dances, under the auspices of the Bachelors beginning next Friday will be held again in the Della Robbia room of the Vanderbilt on Friday nights until January 27, inclusive. Every penny of the subscription money will be given to disabled American soldiers and home charities. The women's committee includes Misses Vincent Astor, George B. Baker, Jr., James A. Burden, Jr., Marshall Field, W. Gladys Loew, George R. Post, Jr., William K. Vanderbilt 2d, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Whitney Warren, E. Thornton Wilson, Harry Payne Whitney and H. Rogers Windrop.

Subscriptions can be sent to Mr. Alfonso de Navarro, 25 Broadway. Up to date more than \$38,000 has been distributed as a result of these dances.

Continued on Page Three.